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## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Background**

On a periodic basis the City of Clyde Hill reassesses its Legislative Priorities to keep pace with the political situation at the Regional, State and, occasionally, the Federal level. The City provides these Priorities to the AWC, the SCA and its State Legislators in order to bolster their efforts and, in doing so, the City's. This year the City has identified five legislative subjects that it considers to be priorities. Those priorities are:

1. **Maintain Local Authority and Remove Burdensome Requirements and Unfunded Mandates for Small Cities**

Prevent State from divesting pre-existing powers from local jurisdictions around wireless communications, land use planning, and rights-of-way. Absolve small cities from requirements and unfunded mandates that are overly burdensome.

2. **Adjust Property Tax Cap**

Replace the 1% property tax cap with one that takes into consideration inflation and population growth.

3. **Protect Shared Revenues and Provide More Fiscal Flexibility for Operational Needs**

Ensure fiscal sustainability for local jurisdictions through protected funding from the State. Allow small cities to utilize existing revenue sources such as the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) for operational needs.

4. **Enhance Public Safety**

- *Provide Resources for Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention* – Update the local option Public Safety Sales Tax to provide greater flexibility for using funds for officer wages, retention programs. Expand access to state-mandated training.
- *Further Amend Drug Possession and Use Statutes to Deter Drug Use* – Strengthen the 2023 Blake Fix by striking preemption language on paraphernalia, aligning the diversion and treatment timelines, proposing mandatory minimums, and amending 'harm reduction' theories to include the end goal of ending drug use.
- *Address vehicle pursuits for public safety* – Clarify the ability for law enforcement to conduct vehicle pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances.

5. **Increase Regional Affordable Housing**

- *Funding for Affordable Housing* – Provide new and flexible funding options for local jurisdictions that address the need for regional affordable housing, such as a local option Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Such options should be progressively structured to best meet the needs of low and moderate income households.
- *Affordable Housing Near Fixed Route Transit* – Encourage planning and provide incentives for affordable housing within a ¼ mile of fixed route transit while limiting imposed requirements for cities with geographic areas both inside and outside of this radius. Provide local flexibility and planning resources to help communities set affordability goals for transit-oriented development.